

Over the past several years, the Lynchburg Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) has received multiple requests to create an off-leash dog park within the City. Indeed throughout Virginia and the region there is a growing interest in these types of facilities. With the remaining open space in Lynchburg disappearing rapidly, and an estimated 15,000 dogs within the City limits, there are fewer and fewer areas for owners to exercise their canines responsibly. Over a third of all households within Lynchburg have at least one dog.

Last year the Department of Parks & Recreation, and a group of concerned City residents, formed a steering committee that has been exploring the feasibility of an off-leash dog park within the City using existing park property.

The Steering Committee has been researching other dog parks across the nation to learn about best management practices for building and implementing a successful dog park. In an effort to collect valuable public input, and better understand the needs and concerns of potential users of the proposed park, the Committee is conducting a user demand [survey](#) that can be downloaded by clicking on the [here](#) or going to the City's website ([www.lynchburgva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.lynchburgva.gov/parksandrec)).

Once completed, surveys can be faxed (528-2794) or mailed back to the Lynchburg Department of Parks & Recreation at 301 Grove Street, Lynchburg, Virginia, 24501.

While a final decision regarding any potential dog park has not been made, this survey is an important step in gauging public support of such a facility.